IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all claims in the instant application with the listing below amending claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 13 and 16-18; adding claims 25-30; and canceling claims 19-24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

a plurality of core materials; and

a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core materials, the thickness of said coating material is regulated in a predetermined pattern to achieve [~~the~~] desired operational properties of said lifting sling.

2. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea elastomer, a polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.

3. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [~~2~~]1, wherein said coating material has an operational temperature range of –40 to 175 degrees Celsius.

4. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [~~2~~]1, wherein said coating material has a tensile strength in the range of up to 6,500 pounds per square inch, an elongation range of up to 300 percent, and a tear resistance in the range of up to 600 pounds per linear inch.

5. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said coating material includes at least one of the following additives:

i) a catalyst;
ii) a stabilizer;
iii) a pigment;
iv) a fire retardant;
v) a static electricity reducing additive;
vi) an ultraviolet filtering additive; or
vii) a thermal cycling additive.

6. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said plurality of core materials include at least one of the following:

i) nylon;
ii) polyester;
iii) a synthetic fiber;
iv) polypropylene;
v) wire rope;
vi) steel core;
vii) cordage rope;
viii) yarn;
ix) NOMAX;
x) KEVLAR; or
xi) chain.

7. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising a safety core, said safety core being bonded [~~with~~] proximate to said plurality of core materials.

8. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety core traverses said lifting sling.

9. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety core is located, with respect to said plurality of core materials, in at least one of the following locations:

i) seam located;
ii) perimeter located; or
iii) centrally located.

10. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 7, wherein said safety core is interconnected with at least one of the following:

i) an indicator; or
ii) an electronic system.

11. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein prior to applying said coating material said plurality of core materials are selectively temperature adjusted and or pre-tensioned.

12. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein a multi-core lifting sling is formed by applying a seaming layer of said coating material to bond together at least one of the following:

i) a plurality of said plurality of core materials to form said multi-core lifting sling; or

ii) a plurality of previously coated said plurality of core materials to form said multi-core lifting sling.

13. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said multi-core lifting sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising a safety core, said safety core utilizes at least one of the following configurations:

i) a single said safety core is utilized to traverse each span of said multi-core lifting sling; or

ii) a plurality of said safety core are utilized where a unique said safety core traverses each span of said multi-core lifting sling.

14. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 12, wherein said multi-core lifting sling is formed having multiple free moving spans by applying said seaming layer only to the end portions of said multi-core lifting sling.

15. (Previously Presented) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 14, wherein said multi-core lifting sling has interconnecting ribs.

16. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 1, wherein said lifting sling further [~~comprises~~] comprising at least one of the following:

i) an indicator [~~attached to said lifting sling~~] secured proximate to said plurality of core materials; or

ii) an electronic system [~~attached to said lifting sling~~] secured proximate to said plurality of core materials.

17. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 16, wherein said electronic system further [~~comprises~~] comprising at least one of the following:

i) a microcontroller;
ii) a graphical user interface;
iii) a keypad;
iv) a touch pad;
v) a plurality of general purpose inputs and outputs;
vi) a safety core interface;
vii) a lifting sling measurement and dynamics interface;
viii) an RFID interface;
ix) an IRDA interface;
x) a transceiver;
xi) a wireless data link;
xii) a LAN interface;
xiii) a WAN interface;
xiv) a serial data link;
xv) a GPS interface;
xvi) a power supply;
xvii) a flash memory;
xviii) a read only memory;
xix) a real time clock;
xx) an EEROM; or
xxi) a NOVRAM.

18. (Currently Amended) The lifting sling in accordance with claim [~~17~~] 16, [~~wherein said safety core interface is interconnected with a safety core, said electronic system based in part on monitoring said safety core indicates operational condition, and or suitability for use of said lifting sling~~] wherein said indicator and or said electronic system indicates the operational condition of said lifting sling, the suitability for use of said lifting sling, and or the security status of an article secured by said lifting sling.

19-24 (Canceled)

25. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

a plurality of core materials; and

a coating material, said coating material is disposed onto said plurality of core materials, said coating material is selected from the group consisting of a polyurea elastomer, a polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer;

wherein the location and thickness of said coating material is regulated to achieve desired operational properties of said lifting sling.

26. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated with said coating material.

27. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, further comprising a cover, said cover being fitted around said plurality of core materials, said cover is coated and secured into position with said coating material.

28. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 25, wherein said lifting sling further comprising an electronic system secured proximate to said plurality of core materials, wherein by way of said electronic system said lifting sling data communicates with a plurality of data processing devices and or a plurality of global network based data processing resources.

29. (Newly Added) A lifting sling, said lifting sling comprising:

a plurality of core materials; and

a coating material, said coating material is sprayed onto said plurality of core materials, said coating material is a polyurea elastomer, a polyurethane, or a hybrid polyurethane – polyurea elastomer.

30. (Newly Added) The lifting sling in accordance with claim 29, wherein said lifting sling further comprising an electronic system configured to monitor and or determine at least one of the following:

i) the suitability for use of said lifting sling;
ii) the operational condition of said lifting sling; or
iii) the security status of an article being secured by said lifting sling.